

Statewide Colorado Registration & Election (SCORE)

Project and System Presentation



SCORE PROJECT and SYSTEM

The purpose of this presentation is to give the reader an overview of both the SCORE Project and the SCORE System.

A project is a temporary endeavor undertaken to create a unique product or service. The SCORE project is an endeavor to create the SCORE system by January 2006.

A system, in this case a software system, is the collective software programs, procedures, rules and documentation necessary to perform a particular business function. The SCORE system being created by the SCORE project will be used to perform the voter registration and election management functions within Colorado.

SCORE Presentation Content

SCORE Project

- Project Background
- Project Participants
- Project Approach

SCORE System

- System Environment
- System Architecture
- System Features and Benefits

SCORE PROJECT

Background

- In 2002, the federal Help America Vote Act was passed. It introduces election reform in areas such as voter identification, provisional ballots, military and overseas voters, handicapped-accessible voting, and voter registration. It requires states to implement centralized, statewide voter registration systems by January 1, 2006.

SCORE PROJECT

Background (cont)

- The Colorado legislature introduced additional HAVA-related legislation during the 2003 through 2005 sessions.
- The federal act provides for funding to the states to implement HAVA requirements.
- This presentation addresses the HAVA requirement for a centralized statewide voter registration system being met through the SCORE Project and System.

SCORE PROJECT

Participants

Many organizations are involved in the execution of the SCORE Project, including:

- **U.S. Election Assistance Commission** – Provider of general system requirements and federal funding.
- **Colo Dept of State, Election Division** – Responsible for contract management, project scope and participant coordination.

SCORE PROJECT

Participants (cont)

- **Colo Dept of State, IT Division** – Supports the Election Division in Information Technology related project matters.
- **Accenture LLP** – The vendor contracted to provide personnel, product, and project approach to create and implement the SCORE System.

SCORE PROJECT

Participants (cont)

- **Wyant Data Systems** – The vendor contracted to provide Independent Verification and Validation (IV&V) which includes independent review, evaluation, and recommendations regarding SCORE Project deliverables.
- **Colo Dept of Revenue, Division of Motor Vehicle** – Interfaces with the SCORE System to collect and verify voter registration data.

SCORE PROJECT

Participants (cont)

- **Colo Dept of Corrections** – Interfaces with the SCORE System to provide data on incarcerated and paroled individuals who are ineligible to voter per Colorado law.
- **Colo Dept of Public Health and Environment, Division of Vital Statistics** – Interfaces with the SCORE System to provide data on deceased individuals for cancellation purposes.

SCORE PROJECT

Participants (cont)

- **Colo Dept of Personnel and Administration, Division of Information Technologies** – Provides support of the statewide telecommunications network to be used by the SCORE System.
- **Colo County Election Offices** – The 64 county election offices will be the key users of the SCORE System.

SCORE PROJECT

Participants (cont)

- **Customers** – Colorado election officials, voters, candidates, and political parties will share in the benefits provided by the system, upon completion.

SCORE PROJECT

Approach

The key elements of the SCORE Project approach are:

- Open and honest communication between project participants.
- Involvement of system stakeholders.
- Use of a flexible, phased project management approach.
- Proven, robust and scalable technical architecture.

SCORE PROJECT

Approach (cont)

- Secure system and data environment.
- Functional, useable, and flexible system.
- Use of system and performance testing standards.
- Structured legacy data conversion.
- Comprehensive training program.
- Controlled implementation.
- User support throughout implementation and production.

SCORE SYSTEM

Pre-SCORE Environment

- **Currently**, each county has its own countywide voter registration system. There are four vendors servicing this market in Colorado. Periodically, each county uploads its registration data to the Dept of State where the data is used to identify potential duplicate registrations across counties.

SCORE SYSTEM

Pre-SCORE Environment (cont)

- **Currently**, the Dept of State also processes data from the Dept of Corrections and notifies counties of potential felons needing to be cancelled.
- **Currently**, death records from the Dept of Public Health and Environment are passed from the Dept of State to the counties in hardcopy format for cancellation purposes.

SCORE SYSTEM

Environment

- The SCORE System will consist of a centralized voter registration and election management system managed by the Colorado Dept of State. County election offices will be connected to the SCORE System by the State's secure Multi-use Network (MNT).

SCORE SYSTEM

Environment (cont)

- Interfaces to the Dept of Revenue (Motor Vehicle voter registration data), Dept of Corrections (Felon data), and Dept of Public Health (Death data) will all be automated in the SCORE System.
- There will also be an Internet interface to allow public access to information about voter registration, polling places, provisional ballot status and application forms.

SCORE SYSTEM

Architecture

- The SCORE System is based upon the Accenture Election System Manager (AESM) system. Custom configuration and additions to AESM will produce the SCORE System for Colorado.
- The SCORE System is being built using Microsoft .NET technologies. The SQL Server 2000 Enterprise Edition database will manage SCORE data.

SCORE SYSTEM

Architecture (cont)

- Microsoft Visual Studio .NET 2003 tools are being used to develop the SCORE System.
- The SCORE System connectivity to county election offices will utilize the Colorado Multi-use Network (MNT).

SCORE SYSTEM

Architecture (cont)

- The SCORE System will provide both a Netcentric (Web-based) and a Thin Client (server-based) user interface.
- Close attention is given to ensure the SCORE System is scalable, available, and secure.

SCORE SYSTEM

Features and Benefits

The new system will provide many features and corresponding benefits, such as:

- Centralized system and database allows for data consistency, uniform reporting, reduced administration at the county level, and increased security.

SCORE SYSTEM

Features and Benefits (cont)

- Many of the system's features are configurable making it easier and quicker to customize when state and county requirements change.
- Centralized reporting alleviates the need to painstakingly consolidate statewide data from 64 separate counties.
- Report Wizards allow for ease in county generation of custom reports.

SCORE SYSTEM

Features and Benefits (cont)

- Bar coding, scanning and document imaging features allow efficient processing, control and sharing of correspondence and documents.
- Sophisticated query features allow for flexibility in providing reports and data extracts to system users and clients.
- The integrated address library supports accuracy of data entry and jurisdiction boundary management.

SCORE SYSTEM

Features and Benefits (cont)

- Smart buttons, configurable pull-down menus, pick lists, context sensitive help, and automatic data validation provide ease of data entry for county election staff.
- Online documentation, training manuals and help text promotes consistency and proper use of the system.
- A centralized system helps ensure that statewide laws and rules can be implemented uniformly across counties.

SCORE SYSTEM

Features and Benefits (cont)

- The comprehensive election management features support efficient setup and management of elections, candidates and ballots.
- The centralized system allows state election division staff the ability to easily assist county staff with election administration.

SCORE SYSTEM

Features and Benefits (cont)

- The automated interfaces with various state departments provide for timely and accurate maintenance of voter registration data eliminating or reducing many manual operations previously used.
- The SCORE System public access module will provide voters with current registration, polling place and provisional ballot status thus reducing county staff workload.

SCORE SYSTEM

Features and Benefits (cont)

- The SCORE System will provide a common point of reference for state and county personnel when administering elections and participating in training.
- The interface to county voting system tabulation software will allow for timely consolidated statewide election results reporting thus providing voters, candidates and parties with desired data.

SCORE PROJECT & SYSTEM

Summary

The SCORE Project will result in the implementation of a statewide voter registration and election management system that will improve the efficiency and quality of state and county election operations. It will also benefit the voters, candidates and political parties of Colorado.

SCORE PROJECT & SYSTEM

Summary (cont)

Questions regarding the SCORE Project or System can be directed by email to Colorado's Help America Vote Act mailbox at:

hava@sos.state.co.us

